

Today's Martyrs

Resources for understanding current Christian witness and martyrdom

Weekly Report – 2017-06-11 through 2017-06-17



Bangladesh

Dominic Roy (father of an 8 year old girl who was raped by two Muslim security guards)

Nirmal Rozario (general secretary of the Bangladesh Christian Association; **UPDATE:** said "We can't believe how two 'grandfatherly' men could commit such a crime against a child. We are offering support to the family and are in touch with government officials and law enforcers, to ensure justice in this case")

Date: May 30, 2017

Location: Badda district, Dhaka

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/two-held-in-bangladesh-for-raping-8-year-old-catholic-girl/79489>



Chile

Auxiliary Bishop Fernando Ramos (said in response to a proposed abortion law which would limit most conscientious objection “The door is being opened for the State to rob citizens of their freedom to make decisions to protect life...all health structures, hospitals, universities and private clinics whose purpose or institutional orientation is for a clear choice for the protection and defense of human life, always and in every circumstance, could be forced to betray their institutional characteristics and agree to perform abortions as a legal health service...We reject a State which robs us of our freedom”)

Date reported: June 14, 2017

Location: Santiago

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/62456-AMERICA_CHILE_We_reject_a_State_which_robs_us_of_our_freedom_Bishop_Ramos_on_the_subject_of_abortion_law#.WUFD7uvyuM8



China

Bishop Thaddeus Ma Daqin (ordained as bishop on [July 7, 2012](#), then disappeared after stating in his first homily that he would resign from the state-sponsored church; **UPDATE**: still missing despite apparently having rejoined the state-sponsored church)

Date: June 7, 2017

Location: Shanghai

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/shanghais-bishop-ma-still-in-limbo-with-ordination-no-show/79458>

Bishop John Liu Shigong (aged 89, **died of liver cancer**, had been sent to a labor camp during the Cultural Revolution)

Date: June 9, 2017

Location: Wumeng, Inner Mongolia autonomous region

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/chinese-bishop-dies-but-vatican-appointed-successor-not-yet-ordained/79487>

Pastor Su Tianfu (**UPDATE**: reported on a court hearing his church called to dispute a US\$1 million fine, church members and attorneys were barred from attending the hearing, said “The religious affairs bureau did not strive to protect our legal rights throughout the process. The hearing process was an avoidance system”)

Date: June 9, 2017

Location: Guiyang, Guizhou province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/court-sabotages-house-church-hearing.html>

Ruan Haonan (husband of Luo Caiyan, detained, accused of cult activity)

Date: June 12, 2017

Location: Jiangmen, Guangdong province

Luo Caiyan (wife of Ruan Haonan, pregnant, detained along with her sister, Bibles seized, released after signing an admission of cult activity)

Pastor Li (wife detained, released after signing an admission of cult activity)

Date: June 15, 2017

Location: Jiangmen, Guangdong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christians-pressured-into-confessing.html>

Pastor Zhan Gang (described how his 100 year old church building was attacked by a construction crew, fence demolished, several parishioners were injured, local religious affairs bureau [RAB] denied the injuries occurred)

Date: June 14, 2017

Location: Jiaozhou, Shandong province

Source: <http://www.chinaaid.org/2017/06/christians-injured-as-officials.html>

Bishop Peter Shao Zhumin (detained on [May 18, 2017](#); **UPDATE**: returned home under police escort)

Date: June 16, 2017

Location: Wenzhou, Zhejiang province

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Wenzhou:-Mgr-Shao-back-in-his-diocese-under-police-escort-41049.html>



Egypt

Suzan Ashraf Rawy (aged 22, church employee, abducted on her way to work, ransom demanded)

Date: June 5, 2017

Location: Al Khosous, outside Cairo

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/young-christian-woman-said-kidnapped-outside-cairo-egypt/>

Jehan Anwar (survived the terror attack on the religious pilgrims, hospitalized, said that the male pilgrims were shot and then the women's jewelry was taken)

Date: May 26, 2017

Location: Anba Samuel Monastery, Minya province

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1914&A=31046>

Nermin Mamdouh (sister of Emad Mamdouh, disappeared while on her way to church, brother was killed a year earlier while in military service fighting terrorists in the Sinai)

Date reported: June 15, 2017

Source: <http://www.copts-united.com/English/Details.php?I=1917&A=31092>

Fr Henri Boulad, SJ (aged 85, director of the Jesuit Cultural Center; **UPDATE:** said "One can say that 'Arabs' are naturally violent. But the same could be said of the Barbarians who conquered Europe in the past. These invaders have been progressively 'civilized' by the Christian faith to become what they are now. In my opinion, the religious element plays an essential role in shaping a society. The fact that Christian 'Arabs' are different than Muslim Arabs is a proof of the strong connection between religion and society...All attempts to reform Islam by liberal open-minded Muslims have tragically failed so far and I doubt that a 'reformed Islam' will still remain 'Islam'. Here are six unsuccessful attempts to reform Islam in the last two centuries [listed them in the article]...On such ethical issues [with secular societies], and others, the Church should ally with Muslims to fight against whatever demeans and degrades the human being. This is fertile ground for understanding between the two religions. It can also pave the way for us to denounce anything which is morally unacceptable in Islamic teaching")

Date: June 10, 2017

Location: Alexandria

Source: <http://www.ncregister.com/blog/edward-pentin/jesuit-scholar-seeking-to-defend-islam-at-all-costs-is-betraying-the-truth>



India

Fr Cedric Prakash SJ (**UPDATE**: protested the use of a public school textbook which labelled Jesus 'a demon': "The fact that Jesus is denigrated in school books says a lot about those in charge of shaping the minds, character and future of children. This also reflects the mind-set of those who govern us, those in power who with their acolytes appear bent on destroying what is deemed sacrosanct in the Constitution of India...there are fewer scruples in denigrating and even exterminating minorities, Dalits and Tribals...[this is a] brutal plan to promote fascist ideologies", he demanded removal of the books and "that the perpetrators be prosecuted according to the law and that the government apologize to the Christian community")

Date reported: June 9, 2017

Location: Gujarat state

Source: <http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Gujarat-textbook-describe-Jesus-as-a-%E2%80%9Cdemon%E2%80%9D-40977.html>

Sr Bina Joseph (arrested while traveling on a train with four girls, all were held for 12 hours except the legal minor who was held until her parents arrived)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE**: said he "strongly condemns the harassment of radical elements professing their loyalty and political alliance with the ruling party [BJP]. All this is absolutely wrong and goes against the freedom of every Indian citizen...[Sr Bina Joseph] was traveling on a public transport vehicle, when she became was the victim of harassment, intimidation, and humiliation by the police. The behavior of the agents is to be condemned")

Date: June 13, 2017

Location: Satna Station, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: [http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-a-sister-arrested-\(and-released\)-for-'forced-conversions'-41015.html](http://www.asianews.it/news-en/Madhya-Pradesh,-a-sister-arrested-(and-released)-for-'forced-conversions'-41015.html)

Sr Bina Joseph (arrested on June 13, 2017 while traveling on a train with four girls, all were held for 12 hours except the legal minor who was held until her parents arrived; **UPDATE**: charged with abduction of the girls, police said an arrest could come at the end of the investigation)

Archbishop Leo Cornelio (**UPDATE**: said the charge against Sr Bina Joseph was a "totally a false case")

Date: June 15, 2017

Location: Satna, Madhya Pradesh state

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/freed-indian-nun-slapped-with-abduction-charges/79524>

Event: Four Christian couples were beaten, forced to participate in Hindu rituals and denied water

Manoj Kumar (husband of Pushpa Kumari)

Pushpa Kumari (wife of Manoj Kumar)

Sasikala Kumari (wife of Ramkreet Ram, said "How will we survive if we don't grow our crops?")

Ramkreet Ram (husband of Sasikala Kumari)

Date: April 25, 2017

Location: Jalalabad village, Ghazipur district, Uttar Pradesh state

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christian-families-india-forced-hindu-ritual-denied-water/>



Iran

Maryam Naghash-Zargaran aka Nasim (aged 39, has had heart surgery, has continued to endure significant medical problems in prison; **UPDATE**: beaten by another inmate within the last week, foot injured; denied medical treatment)

Date reported: June 13, 2017

Location: Evin Prison, Tehran

Source: <http://mohabatnews.com/en/?p=3550>



Iraq

Christina Khidr Ebada (aged 5, abducted on [August 22, 2014](#) from her mother's lap by ISIL militants in [Qaraqosh](#); a Christian woman named Rana in a [September 2014](#) phone conversation after her capture by ISIL said that she had cared for Christina, said Christina was later given to a Muslim family to be raised as a Muslim; still missing as of [September 9, 2016](#), a photograph of her appeared on Facebook before the internet was cut from [Mosul](#); **UPDATE**: recovered in good health by Iraqi government forces during fighting in the Mosul area, returned to her parents, had lost the ability to speak Assyrian, has been "overwhelmed" by the welcome received at the refugee camp where her parents live)

Date: June 9, 2017

Location: Erbil, Kurdistan

Source: <https://www.worldwatchmonitor.org/2017/06/abducted-christina-finally-reunited-parents/>



Ireland

Bishop Denis Brennan (said “There is a lot of concern in church circles these days about the future. This is understandable given the volume of criticism and negativity directed at the church over recent times...In these Pentecost days we need to cast off our fears too, we are not the first generation of Christians to worry and wonder about the future. In every age people have written the obituary of the church and our age is no exception”)

Date: June 11, 2017

Location: Horeswood, County Wexford

Bishop Leo O’Reilly (spoke of "hostility to the church that is now a settled part of our society’s culture. People from abroad are often astonished at the antipathy to the church displayed in our country...It is not physical persecution but it is no less real for that. It is more subtle. It takes the form of gradual exclusion of church people or activities from the public space. There is denigration of religious beliefs, practices and institutions on radio, television and on social and other media. There is often a focus on bad news about the church to the almost total exclusion of any good news")

Date reported: June 11, 2017

Location: Drogheda

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2017/06/12/irish-church-facing-persecution-and-hostility-bishops-warn/>



Kazakhstan

Pastor Pyotr Panafidin (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$730; **UPDATE**: fine reduced to US\$507 on appeal)

Date: May 18, 2017

Location: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Vitaly Ryzhkov (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$365; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Vitaly Relin (detained on [April 16, 2017](#), fined US\$365; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: May 19, 2017

Location: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Yakov Fot (fined US\$724 on [April 4, 2017](#) for leading a worship service; **UPDATE**: appeal denied)

Date: April 27, 2017

Location: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Pastor Aleksandr Gorbunov (Bible meeting interrupted by police on [May 24, 2017](#); **UPDATE:** fined US\$728)

[Date: May 25, 2017](#)

[Location: Astrakhanka village, Akmola region](#)

Event: Police raided a worship service, took 20 men and one woman to the police station to be fingerprinted and photographed, all were released

Pyotr Demchenko

Viktor Fot

Aleksandr Fot

Stanislav Denisov

Aleksandr Strignatsky

Konstantin Nurtazin

Vladimir Klochan (visitor)

Oleg Getman

[Date: May 28, 2017](#)

[Location: Taraz, Zhambyl region](#)

Event UPDATE: Police summoned Christians to their local polices stations and imposed fines of us\$365 each

Pyotr Demchenko (**UPDATE:** fined, appealed)

Viktor Fot (**UPDATE:** fined, appealed)

Aleksandr Fot

Stanislav Denisov

Aleksandr Strignatsky

[Date: May 29, 2017](#)

[Locations: various](#)

Konstantin Nurtazin (**UPDATE:** fined US\$365)

Vladimir Klochan (**UPDATE:** fined US\$365)

[Date: May 30, 2017](#)

Oleg Getman (**UPDATE:** fined US\$363)

[Date: June 2, 2017](#)

Event: Police raided a worship service, took 7 into custody, all were released, told they would be fined

Aleksei Tishko

Sergei Tyan

Vitaly Relin

Shukhrat Alzhanov (son of Tamara Alzhanova)

Tamara Alzhanova (mother of Shukhrat Alzhanov)

Date: June 4, 2017

Location: Taraz, Zhambyl region

Source: http://www.forum18.org/archive.php?article_id=2285



Kenya

Elly Oloo Ojiema (elementary school teacher, **shot dead** at his school in front of his students by Al Shabaab militants)

Joseph Kamau (elementary school teacher, abducted by Al Shabaab militants along with a Muslim teacher who attempted to protect him)

Date: May 31, 2017

Location: Fafi

Source: <http://morningstarnews.org/2017/06/christian-teacher-killed-another-abducted-along-muslim-northeastern-kenya/>



Mexico

Fr Juan Antonio Zambrano Garcia (stabbed twice, hospitalized)

Date: June 9, 2017

Location: Tijuana

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/62450-AMERICA_MEXICO_Violence_increases_against_priests#.WUFFY-vyuM8



Nigeria

Elisah Akinsulere (described the results of recent Fulani attacks “The recession has forced many people to go back to farms as advised by the government but now we cannot even enjoy our produce again because of the wreckage caused by cattle. We are appealing to the Federal Government and our lawmakers to do something tangible to address this security breach and threat to farmers on their land”)

Date: June 13, 2017

Location: Okitipupa, Ondo state

Source: <https://www.pmnewsnigeria.com/2017/06/13/can-tells-fg-control-movement-fulani-headsmen/>



Pakistan

Lee Zingyang aka Li Xinheng (aged 24, Chinese citizen, Mandarin teacher, possible underground missionary, abducted by ISIL, **killed** either by ISIL or in a government air strike)

Meng Lisi aka Lu Ling Lina (aged 26, Chinese citizen, Mandarin teacher, possible underground missionary, abducted by ISIL, **killed** either by ISIL or in a government air strike)

Date: May 2017

Location: Quetta, Balochistan

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/isis-kills-2-chinese-missionaries-pakistan-187716/>
and <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6501>
and <http://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/china-looks-for-answers-over-killing-of-nationals-in-pakistan/story-rS8kRezXvXEkQ5EBILTouJ.html>

Mehwish Shaukat (aged 8, victim of an attempted rape by a Muslim neighbor while her parents and older siblings were at work)

Shaukat Masih (aged about 46, father of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Nasreen Bibi (aged about 45, mother of Sharoon, Haroon, Mehwish, Samson, and Kajal, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Sharoon Shaukat (aged 18, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Haroon Shaukat (aged 13, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, brick kiln bonded laborer)

Samson Shaukat (aged 7, brother of Mehwish Shaukat, witnessed the attempted rape of his sister)

Kajal Shaukat (aged 4, sister of Mehwish Shaukat, witnessed the attempted rape of her sister)

Date: June 8, 2017

Location: Rao Khan Wala, Kasur

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6510>

Ashfaq Masih (bicycle repairman, accused of blasphemy by a Muslim customer after he protested the customer's refusal to pay his bill, arrested)

Date: June 15, 2017

Location: Lahore

Source: <http://www.pakistanchristianpost.com/detail.php?hnewsid=6509>



Papua New Guinea

Doug Tennent (New Zealand citizen, missionary, attorney, diocesan administrator, expelled from the country)

Archbishop Francesco Panfilo SDB (said "Doug Tennent received a decree of expulsion on the grounds that he was 'involved in sensitive issues concerning land owners'. We know the meaning of these words: they refer to the native peoples in the area of West Pomio, in the territory of our archdiocese. In 2012 a group of land owners in that area stipulated an agreement with a Malay multinational, the Rimbunan Hijau, which grants land for the exploitation of timber and the production of palm oil. But the contract was not sufficiently examined. As the years passed the natives witnessed progressive deforesting and serious environmental devastation. Therefore, rightly concerned, they demanded fairer conditions and guarantees of protection for the area, and asked for my direct involvement in the matter, as Archbishop and a Catholic representative. We examined the question and, thanks also to the competent assistance of Mr. Tennent, we started the process of requesting a re-negotiation of the contract...The land rental agreement is clearly unfair towards the owners of the land, the rent conceded for the land is inadequate and what is more the multinational company for the past two years has been in arrears, coercive means were used to obtain the signatures of the land owners and consent for the area conceded; the local people were not properly informed...The event has caused clamor and indignation in politics and in the media. Our request to the government is to immediately recall Tennent, whose assistance is important for the administration of our local Church. We hope the Foreign Ministry will intervene and reconsider the decision taken. We wait and hope. We are ready even to go to Court")

Date: June 12, 2017

Location: Rabaul

Source: http://www.fides.org/en/news/62462-OCEANIA_PAPUA_NEW_GUINEA_Lay_missionary_expelled_transversal_warning_f_or_the_local_Church#.WUKXHuvyuM8



Philippines

Event: Christian construction workers escaped from Islamic militants

Jennifer Velazques (thanked the local Muslim police: "If not for them, we would all be dead by now")

Gerald Docallos (said "We ran about two kilometers. We saw lots of bodies on the street. I didn't look at them because I was running")

Date reported: June 13, 2017

Location: Barangay village, near Marawi, Mindanao

Source: <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-06-13/marawi-survivors-tell-of-escaping-from-islamic-state-philippines/8614414>

and <http://www.benarnews.org/english/news/philippine/marawi-police-06132017153621.html>



United Kingdom

Tim Farron (Member of Parliament, under attack for refusing on [April 19, 2017](#) to agree that homosexual behavior was not a sin and for saying "We are all sinners"; **UPDATE:** resigned as leader of the Liberal Democrats, wrote: "...From the very first day of my leadership, I have faced questions about my Christian faith. I've tried to answer with grace and patience. Sometimes my answers could have been wiser. At the start of this election, I found myself under scrutiny again - asked about matters to do with my faith. I felt guilty that this focus was distracting attention from our campaign, obscuring our message. Journalists have every right to ask what they see fit. The consequences of the focus on my faith is that I have found myself torn between living as a faithful Christian and serving as a political leader. A better, wiser person than me may have been able to deal with this more successfully, to have remained faithful to Christ while leading a political party in the current environment. To be a political leader - especially of a progressive, liberal party in 2017 - and to live as a committed Christian, to hold faithfully to the Bible's teaching, has felt impossible for me. I'm a liberal to my finger tips, and that liberalism means that I am passionate about defending the rights and liberties of people who believe different things to me. There are Christians in politics who take the view that they should impose the tenets of faith on society, but I have not taken that approach because I disagree with it - it's not liberal and it is counterproductive when it comes to advancing the gospel. Even so, I seem to be the subject of suspicion because of what I believe and who my faith is in. In which case we are kidding ourselves if we think we yet live in a tolerant, liberal society...")

Cardinal Vincent Nichols (**UPDATE:** said he was "sorry to read Mr Farron's statement and I recognize the hurt it expresses. Undoubtedly he has been given a hard time")

Lord David Alton (human rights advocate; **UPDATE:** wrote "It is ironic that a Party, which I joined as a teenager, because of its belief in conscience, human rights and free speech, has morphed into something so narrow and intolerant...that its leader has been forced to choose between his Faith and his Party")

Canon Pat Browne (chaplain to Parliament, said he was "very saddened by the resignation of Mr Farron and alarmed if it is true that there is no place in Parliament for a committed Christian. It's a judgement on the way we do politics in this country")

Andrea Minichiello Williams (Chief Executive of Christian Concerns; **UPDATE:** wrote "Tim Farron's story demonstrates that even those who accept the liberal political agenda wholeheartedly become targets who are unfairly hounded and bullied. He was forced to answer questions on the morality of 'gay sex' and abortion. During the election campaign

he had to choose whether to surrender his conscience and forfeit his soul to the intolerant, marauding elite. Even though he capitulated, this did not stop the hunt. Today he felt he could no longer lead, and had no option but to resign. Tim Farron's treatment demonstrates that Christians are simply not tolerated by the illiberal elite in positions of influence. This, alongside the widespread reaction to the DUP's [a Northern Ireland political party's] views on abortion and same-sex unions, is further evidence of this anti-Christian morality. The vilification of the DUP for its opposition to abortion and same-sex unions and castigation of Tim Farron is shocking and upsetting. If we continue in this crusade of 'totaltolerance', we will enter a harsh and conformist world where Christianity will be 'no platformed' and eventually squeezed out of every sphere of public life. The elite determines what are toxic unacceptable views. Unless you approve of their 'new morality' you are punished. At first comes the loss of privilege, a political position, a place at university, then the detriment: the refusal of a grant and ultimately criminal sanction. The history of our nation proves that when Christianity was firmly at the heart of public life there was freedom, prosperity and beauty. The hard atheism that currently dominates our political discourse is cruel and doesn't tolerate dissent. Tim Farron is another in a long line of casualties. It is time to fight back before it is too late")

Fr Alexander Lucie-Smith (wrote "...Religious belief plays a critical, integrating and stimulating role in forming political ideas. If religious people are to be excluded from politics, then politics will be the poorer. Remember what they used to say about the Labour party: it owed more to Methodism than Marxism, the Liberal party was also deeply informed by Nonconformity. Are these sources of inspiration now to be closed off forever?")

Date: June 14, 2017

Source: https://www.reddit.com/r/ukpolitics/comments/6h95e5/tim_farrons_resignation_letter/ and <http://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2017/06/15/tim-farron-was-given-a-hard-time-for-being-christian-says-cardinal/> and <http://www.catholicherald.co.uk/commentandblogs/2017/06/15/tim-farrons-resignation-spells-dark-times-ahead-for-christians-in-politics/> and <http://www.christianconcern.com/our-concerns/same-sex-marriage/tim-farrons-resignation-shows-totaltolerance-of-illiberal-elite>

Anthony Horan (director of the Catholic Parliamentary Office, told a committee at the Scottish parliament of: "a number of young people who had experienced anti-Catholic prejudice in their school, most of it relating to the Church's teaching on abortion and marriage. One student even dropped a subject to 'avoid the harassment'...My overriding concern is the culture of fear that runs right through society and which makes people feel at best uncomfortable and at worst totally frightened to be open about their faith...A deeply worrying and disturbing 57 per cent of charges [of persecution] are as a result of anti-Catholic behavior. Compare this to the percentage of charges relating to Protestantism [27 per cent] and Islam [17 per cent] and we are left with an undoubted sectarian problem that needs to be addressed...There is an alarming level of intolerance being levelled at some young people simply because they are Catholic or because they hold a particular view that others may disagree with. This is not a culture of tolerance and respect. We have to be very mindful of the need to tackle anti-religious behavior and be wary of creating a hierarchy of rights in relation to the protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act 2010. We cannot allow some to trump others. It must be all or nothing")

Date: June 16, 2017

Location: Edinburgh

Source: <http://www.catholicerald.co.uk/news/2017/06/16/catholics-in-scotland-fear-being-open-about-their-faith-says-bishops-conference-official/>



United States

Jaelene Hinkle (aged 24, soccer player, announced that she would not be attending the Friendlies competitions in Norway and Sweden for 'personal reasons', the announcement came after U.S. Soccer announced that players would all wear gay pride jerseys, had previously been criticized by homosexual activists for her Christian views)

Date: June 7, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christian-soccer-player-jaelene-hinkle-withdraws-from-friendlies-as-us-team-is-set-to-wear-gay-pride-jerseys-186852/>

Event: The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency detained 199 Iraqi nationals for deportation, including many Christians

Pastor Jalil Dawood (said "We can't say these people went through genocide and send them back to be victimized again! We hope and pray that the issue gets resolved. America should never deport Christians to Iraq because they will be in trouble in Iraq as over a million left Iraq since 2003, and this will cause great hardship to their loved ones here [also bringing] harm to them physically, mentally, and spiritually if they [are] ever sent back. I understand that some might not have done their paperwork properly or [have] passed their datelines. But deportation is [an] extreme measure toward peaceful people that just want to survive and do well in this society [and] love America as their new home")

Bishop Francis Y Kalabat (wrote "The Church does not oppose justice, all hardened criminals that are a danger to society should be picked up. Many who were picked up are not hardened criminals but for the last decades have been great citizens [sic]. The genocide bill that was just passed by Congress last week to protect Christians goes against this very thing")

Date: June 12, 2017

Source: <http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/immigration-arrests-stun-detroits-chaldean-catholics-30294/>

and <http://www.christianpost.com/news/christians-cry-out-trump-chaldean-iraq-deport-188067/>

United States - Georgia

Sarah Harmening (aged 17, **killed in a bus accident** while in route to missionary work in Botswana)

Date: June 8, 2017

Source: <http://www.christianpost.com/news/teenager-heading-to-botswana-mission-trip-killed-in-church-bus-crash-in-georgia-39-injured-187200/>



Vietnam

Peter Pham Minh Hoang (activist and blogger, dual French citizen, told that the government would revoke his citizenship - despite his birth in the country - and expel him)

Date: June 1, 2017

Location: Ho Chi Minh City

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/outcry-as-vietnam-rescinds-catholic-activists-nationality/79460>

Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh (husband of Tran Thi Hong, on [July 31, 2012](#) an appellate court in Gia Lai upheld his sentence of 11 years for "undermining unity"; **UPDATE**: confined to a cramped punishment cell after telling U.S. diplomats about the mistreatment he has suffered)

Tran Thi Hong (wife of Pastor Nguyen Cong Chinh; **UPDATE**: said "Chinh said on the previous day, prison officials informed him about the meeting [with U.S. diplomats] and asked him not to tell the visitors anything that would make them look bad. Chinh could not obey their order. He told the delegation his experiences of torture, threats and mistreatment that he has endured over six years")

Dates: May 25 and June 7, 2017

Location: Xuan Loc Prison, Dong Nai province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/jailed-vietnamese-pastor-punished-after-us-visit/79479>

Fr Anthony Nguyen Van Dinh (complained to the government along with 10 other priests of attacks by youth gangs on Christians "We see that the attacks have been carried out in an orchestrated manner and the police know well what is occurring but are ignoring what is going on")

Date: June 13, 2017

Location: Song Ngoc parish, Quynh Luu district, Nghe An province

Source: <http://www.ucanews.com/news/catholic-community-in-vietnam-terrorized-by-gangs-of-youth/79519>

Today's Martyrs

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